thisPLACEd
real•virtual•inbetween
Exploring identities beyond real geography

City Gallery of Tallinn
Harju str. 13
Tallinn, Estonia

Opening hours
Wednesday to Monday 12 am - 6 pm
Opening: 11. February 2009 6 pm

Artists: Achot Achot (Paris/ Yerevan) Emily Artinian (Philadelphia/London), Silvina Der-Meguerditchian (Buenos Aires/Berlin), Archi Galentz (Moscow/Berlin), Olga Jürgenson (Tallinn/London), Eléonore de Montesquiou (Paris/Berlin)

Curators: S. Der-Meguerditchian, Reet Varblane

Exhibition in the City Gallery of Tallinn

As a result of a long history of displacement, the Armenian identity is a good example of an "early globalized nation". The exhibition **thisPLACEd, real • virtual • in between** aims to show this transnational and hybrid model and to juxtapose it with the arising understanding of Estonians in a post-Soviet framework on the way to becoming a full member of the European Union.

The platform **under_construction** –a landscape of independent, Armenia related artists formed in 2006 – is structured around **virtual** visual dialogues followed by **real** dialogues in exhibitions and meetings. In 2008 the under_construction artists invited Estonia related artists to participate from in an open process, a visual-virtual dialog using a blog format as an artistic tool for exchange: over the course of a year several blogs became the virtual "territory" where the artists approached each other.

With its realization the exhibition thisPLACEd confronts some of the project's big challenges: can virtual space legitimate itself as a sustainable settlement and give confidence to its "inhabitants"? How meaningful is it to have **true** dialog partners spread around the world and is it possible to develop common goals and real, meaningful communication? This actual meeting of the virtual participants continues under_construction's dual sided process of working virtually and face to face.

The art on display in the City Gallery of Tallinn shows interstitial and honest positions: while some of the artworks explore the power of minorities and the views that migrants have because of their "marginal position", others sketch wishful moments of healing and fruitful cohesion, and still others search for a different approach to historical legacy, one beyond the familiar, without nostalgic motivation.

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